

EVALUATING INFORMATION: APPLYING THE CRAAP TEST

**Meriam
Library,
California
State
University,
Chico**

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Currency

Relevance

Authority

Accuracy

Purpose

CURRENCY: THE TIMELINESS OF THE INFORMATION

- **When** was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been **revised** or **updated**?
- Does your topic require **current** information, or will older sources work as well?
- Are the **links** functional?

RELEVANCE: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INFORMATION FOR YOUR NEEDS

- Does the information **relate** to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended **audience**?
- Is the information at an **appropriate** level (i.e. not too elementary or advanced for your needs)?
- Have you looked at a **variety** of sources before determining this is one you will use?
- Would you be comfortable **citing** this source in your research paper?

AUTHORITY: THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION

- **Who** is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- What are the author's **credentials** or organizational **affiliations**?
- Is the author **qualified** to write on the topic?
- Is there **contact** information, such as a publisher or email address?
- Does the **URL** reveal anything about the author or source? Examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net

ACCURACY: THE RELIABILITY, TRUTHFULNESS AND CORRECTNESS OF THE CONTENT

- **Where** does the information come from?
- Is the information supported by **evidence**?
- Has the information been **reviewed** or **refereed**?
- Can you **verify** any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
- Does the language or tone seem **unbiased** and free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar or typographical **errors**?

PURPOSE: THE REASON THE INFORMATION EXISTS

- What is the **purpose** of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?
- Do the authors/sponsors make their **intentions** or purpose clear?
- Is the **information** fact, opinion or propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear **objective** and **impartial**?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal **biases**?

CONCLUSION

If it doesn't have currency,
relevance, authority,
accuracy, or purpose, don't
use it because
it's **CRAAP!**